

AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER

ISSN 1443-4962

No. 38

July 2006

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38.1 COPY DEADLINE AND WEBSITE ADDRESS

Deadline for next Newsletter: 30 September 2006. Subscription details appear at end of Newsletter. [Number 1 appeared October 1999.]

The *Newsletter* is online through the "Publications" link of the University of Queensland's School of Journalism & Communication Website at www.uq.edu.au/journ-comm/ and through the ePrint Archives at the University of Queensland at <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/>

38.2 EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue of the *Newsletter* introduces some minor changes in format intended to make it easier for readers to find items such as those recording deaths of newspaper identities and those listing recent publications. The section, "Recent Chronology of Events", has been abbreviated to "Recent Chronology" and split into sub-sections labelled "Newspaper Events" (with **dates** in bold) and "Deaths" (with **names** in bold). In the section for "Recently Published", books, theses and articles are now listed alphabetically by author's surname (with **names** in bold).

The ANHG is to enter the book-publishing arena again. For details, see 38.54.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: METROPOLITAN

38.3 SUNDAY TIMES ENTERS PERTH'S DAILY ONLINE SCENE

News Limited has developed a new daily newspaper for Perth and Western Australia, but you won't see it in the newsagencies or supermarkets. Called *PerthNow*, it is available only online (at perthnow.com.au). It had a soft launch on Sunday, 19 June, and was then published daily (*Mediaweek*, 26 June 2006, pp.1, 7). It is being used to strengthen the News Limited presence in WA, principally the *Sunday Times*, but also some suburban titles and a printing operation. *Sunday Times* editor Brett McCarthy is overseeing the content of *PerthNow*. "We are pioneering something that hasn't been attempted anywhere else. We are running a seven-day news website out of a Sunday newspaper. We will be operating with news stories appearing every day of the week from our journalists. Other Sunday newspaper sites might have a token amount of new AAP copy ticking over during the week."

The *Sunday Times* has appointed an editor, Alan Newton, and a deputy editor to manage *PerthNow*. There is also a web designer. Sunday Times staff will rotate their days working on the newspaper and *PerthNow*. On any given day, the online operation will have "a couple of reporters and a couple of sub-editors". *PerthNow* has arranged content deals with Channel 9,

Perth, Radio 6PR and 96FM. It will also have access to the audio and video content of news.com.au, McCarthy says.

PerthNow editor Allen Newton, said the site offers the most complete news and information package available in WA. The website is interactive, offering its audience the opportunity to become involved in shaping the content of the site. Citizen journalism, an emerging part of the overseas internet scene, will be encouraged on *PerthNow*, giving West Australians an opportunity to submit news and pictures to the site – even pictures taken on mobile phones are acceptable. Users will be able to submit their own views about restaurants, books, music, movies, television and anything else provoking discussion in the community. As the site grows it will be broadened to offer a host of community services and is intended to become a voice for the community of WA. From weather to what's on and breaking news to book reviews *PerthNow* will offer a wealth of material to its audience. *PerthNow* will be a living entity with new material and new sections appearing constantly (*PerthNow*, 15 June 2006).

The *PerthNow* venture is obviously connected with the decision by West Australian Newspaper Holdings to give the development of its online business higher priority. WAN launched a new website on 1 July, replacing its previous "under-resourced site", which attracted a low volume of visitors and had shown little growth. It compared badly in content and design with those sites operated by most Australian publishers, including those in regional areas. WAN has appointed a new general manager, online and e-commerce, to run the new website (Jack Beverley, "Expanding The West's frontiers", *PANPA Bulletin*, June 2006, p.39). The *West Australian* is now available in digital copies through its website www.thewest.com.au. Purchasers can obtain a subscription or a single issue.

News Limited has expanded its local digital media operations, forming a new division to be led by BSKyB's Australian-born operations chief, Richard Freudenstein. News will roll its News Interactive division and its other non-newspaper assets, such as its 50 per cent stake in realestate.com.au and the online arm of Fox Sports, which News wholly owns, into a new group to be known as News Digital media (*Australian*, Media section, 13 July 2006, p.15).

Several Australian newspapers are preparing to follow the lead of British newspapers in putting exclusive breaking news online before it appears in print and devoting more newsroom resources to the internet (*Australian*, Media section, 15 June 2006, p.16).

38.4 FAIRFAX AND THE *BORDER MAIL*: ANOTHER DYNASTY ENDS

The Mott Dynasty at the daily *Border Mail* ends this month when the shareholders agree to sell the newspaper their family established on 24 October 1903 and has owned 100 per cent since. John Fairfax Holdings Ltd has offered \$155 million net for the acquisition of 100 per cent of the shares in the Border Morning Mail Ltd (BMM). The Albury-Wodonga company owns 51 per cent of the joint-venture printing operation, the Border Mail Printing Pty Ltd. The other partners in the printing company are Star News Group (owned by the Thomas family, based at Pakenham) and Independent News group (based at Frankston). Both own 24.5 per cent of the shares.

The purchase of the *Border Mail* brings to four the number of regional dailies that Fairfax owns. The company owns the *Herald*, Newcastle, and the *Illawarra Mercury*, Wollongong, in NSW; and the *Standard*, Warrnambool, Victoria. News Limited, too, has four regional dailies: the *Cairns Post*, *Townsville Bulletin* and *Gold Coast Bulletin* in Queensland; and the *Geelong Advertiser*, Victoria (John Fairfax Holdings Ltd corporate statement, 3 May 2006; *Border Mail*, 4 May 2006, pp.1, 4, 5, 18; *Sydney Morning Herald*, 4 May 2006, p.21; *Australian*, Media section, 4 May 2006, p.7, and Business section, 5 May, p.25; see also Jack Beverley, "Oops, there goes another one", and Rod Kirkpatrick, "End of a dynasty", *PANPA Bulletin*, June 2006, pp.10, 12).

38.5 MEDIA REFORMS: ON AGAIN, OFF AGAIN, ON AGAIN

ON: Laws allowing media moguls to embark on a wave of takeovers to bring together television, newspaper and radio outlets will be in force next year if a plan that Communications Minister Helen Coonan is putting to Federal Cabinet is approved (*Australian*, 8 June 2006, pp.8 and 13).

OFF: But a report from Steve Lewis and John Lehmann (*Australian*, 20 June 2006, p.3) said the Howard Government was preparing to ditch plans to relax media ownership restrictions amid concerns the National MPs would block the reforms and so put at risk broader industry changes. Steve Lewis and D.D. McNicoll reported (*Australian*, 27 June 2006, p.5) that Rupert Murdoch had privately told the Prime Minister to scrap plans to overhaul media laws. Make radical changes, or none at all, was Murdoch's message, according to the report. See also: Nic Hopkins, "Murdoch pushes for competition across spectrum", *Australian*, Media section, 29 June 2006, p.13.

ON: Federal Cabinet approved on 11 July a dramatic overhaul of media laws that will allow foreign and domestic companies to invest freely in television and newspapers and that is expected to trigger a wave of takeover activity. But measures have been included to allow rural communities to continue receiving local news and weather on television and radio (*Australian*, 12 July 2006p.1). Fuller details were provided on 13 July and reported in the newspapers of 14 July (see *Australian Financial Review*, 14 July 2006, pp. 1, 17-27, and 89-91; and *Australian*, 1-2, 19, 23; and see also *Weekend Australian*, 15-16 July 2006, Business comment, pp.33, 38, and editorial, p.18).

News Limited has criticised the reforms, saying they will "over-protect" free-to-air networks while pay television will be under attack (*Courier-Mail*, 15-16 July 2006, p.3). Alan Kohler commented (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 15-16 July 2006): "Apparently 70 per cent of the newspaper market in Australia plus the pay television monopoly is not enough [for Rupert Murdoch]: he wants no competition at all."

38.6 RECENT CHRONOLOGY

38.6.1 NEWSPAPER EVENTS [see also 38.35 and 38.41]

20 June 2006

Brisbane's *Courier-Mail* turns 160; began as the *Moreton Bay Courier*; as the *Brisbane Courier*, it amalgamated with the *Daily Mail* (estab. 1903) on 28 August 1933; became a "compact" (tabloid) paper on 13 March 2006.

1 July 2006

Thirtieth anniversary of formation of the Australian Press Council. Retired High Court judge Sir Frank Kitto was the first chair (see 38.56).

38.6.2 DEATHS

Browning, Bob: D. 5 May 2006, aged 73 at Frankston; public affairs analyst and author who was a journalist for *the Saigon Post* and the *Age* and had some articles published in the *Bulletin* (*Australian*, 9 June 2006, p.13).

Colquhoun, Des: D. 19 June 2006, aged 75 in Adelaide; whole career with Adelaide *Advertiser* as journalist, editor and manager; joined as copy boy in May 1931; started four-year cadetship seven months later; posted to Melbourne 1959, to London and New York 1962; returned to Adelaide 1966; editorial manager, day editor, night editor, and, from 1970,

editor-in-chief; 1979, general manager of newspaper division of the company; resigned July 1980 after heart surgery; wrote highly popular front-page column for paper for several years (*Advertiser*, 24 June 2006, Review section, pp.4-5, and 20, 28 and 29 June 2006; *City Messenger*, Adelaide, 22 June 2006, pp.4-5; see also 'Des Colquhoun leaves Page 1: "happy as a sandfly"', *PANPA Bulletin*, April 1988, p.5; and *Journalist*, May 1988).

Costello, John: D. 21 May 2006, aged 63 at Bulahdelah, NSW; former IT editor of the *Australian Financial Review* and founding editor of technology magazine, *Computerworld Australia*; pioneer of IT sector with his contribution to the first IT weekly publication, *Pacific Computer Weekly* (*Australian Financial Review*, 26 May 2006, p.72).

Cotton, Garry Mountford: D. 4 May 2006, aged 60 at Warrnambool; respected reporter for *Geelong Advertiser* for several decades until 2003; born at Geelong to a father who was also a journalist; joined ABC as a cadet journalist in 1964; edited the weekly *Coastal Telegraph* for a few years (*Herald Sun*, 9 June 2006, p.93).

Hummerston, Ian: D. 27 May 2006, aged 75 in Perth; joined the *Daily News*, Perth, as a copy-runner in 1948; graduated to being a journalist and moved through the ranks of chief sub-editor, news editor, assistant editor; editor, 1975-86 (David Marsh, email to ANHG, 22 June 2006).

Landells, Rosalind Jean (née Tyner): D. 5 May 2006, aged 89 in Geelong; cadet reporter with the *Argus* in 1934; married journalist Wallace Landells; became secretary of the Brighton Historical Society in 1960s; prepared and typed wonderfully informative newsletters abounding with witty, well researched historical anecdotes, written in a style reminiscent of Jane Austen; produced 109 issues in 38 years (*Age*, 3 July 2006, p.10).

Mark, Ross: D. 14 July 2006, aged 80 in Washington; Australian journalist who had a long and distinguished career as a foreign correspondent with the London *Daily Express*; spent much of his youth on a farm in Dorrigo, NSW; cadet on the *Sydney Sun*; reported Korean War for AAP-Reuter before joining the *Daily Express* spending most of his career in Washington after postings to Moscow and Nairobi (e-mail from John Tidey).

Prerauer, Maria: D. 30 May 2006, aged 84 in Sydney; former arts editor and opera critic for the *Australian*; was an acclaimed soprano who left Australia for Europe in the 1950s; performed in Germany and Spain and at London's Covent Garden; strongly opinionated critic, sometimes known as Maria Piranha (*Australian*, 31 May 2006, report and obit., pp.7, 10).

Renfrew, Glen: D. July 2006, aged 77 in England; son of a NSW miner; after graduating in modern languages at Sydney University, walked London's Fleet Street looking for a job; hired by Reuters and worked in London, Singapore and South Africa before going to Belgium to help launch the first directly delivered financial services; became chief executive of Reuters in 1981 and held position for 10 years (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 July 2006, p.16).

Thomson, Ken: D. 12 June 2006, aged 62 in Canada; Canadian newspaper tycoon who helped transform his father's print empire into one of the world's biggest electronic publishers; was Canada's richest man and the ninth wealthiest in the world, with a fortune of \$C21.6 billion (\$A19.6 billion); took over the family holdings in 1976 after death of father Roy (*Age*, 14 June 2006, online).

Tindale, Lee Robert: D. 4 February 2006, aged 64; born at Katanning, WA; began as a copy boy on Perth *Daily News* and became a journalist, later being posted to Melbourne; worked for *Truth*; began volunteer work for *Warrandyte Diary*, monthly community newspaper, in

1974; at various times was co-editor and editor; contributed “Smokey Joe” column on Page 2 for more than 30 years; used a manual typewriter to the end (*Age*, 12 June 2006).

Wheeldon, John Murray: D. 24 May 2006, aged 76 in Sydney; senator for 16 years and held two portfolios; became associate editor of the *Australian* after leaving politics, and was the senior leader writer; specialised in editorials on foreign affairs and politics; “wrote brilliant, incisive leaders”, said a colleague (*Australian*, 26 May 2006, p.13, but see also pp.3 and 19).

38.7 NEWSPAPER EXECUTIVE APPOINTED TO RUN ABC

Mark Scott, the former editorial director of John Fairfax Holdings Ltd, took up the position of managing director of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) on 5 July. Scott joined the *Herald* in 1994 as its education editor. He had earlier advised Nick Greiner, then the NSW Premier, on education policy. Scott’s grandfather, Walter Scott, was chairman of the Decimal Currency Board that oversaw the introduction of dollars and cents into Australia in 1966. Mark Scott, 43, whose appointment follows an extensive search, replaces Russell Balding, now at the Sydney Airport Corporation.

At the *Herald* Scott was successively education editor, news editor and deputy editor (news) before being appointed director of organisational development in October 2000, taking responsibility for human resources management. In April 2003, he was appointed editor-in-chief of metropolitan newspapers for Fairfax and subsequently became editorial director. He has a Masters degree in public administration from Harvard University. In his most recent editorial role, he has had responsibility for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Age*, Fairfax regional and community newspapers and the group’s magazines (*Australian*, 22 May 2006, p.1, and 23 May 2006, pp.2, 12 and 13 and Media section, 25 May 2006, pp.13, 16 and 18; *Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 May 2006, p.4).

38.8 AUDIT BUREAU MOVES TO END INFLATED CIRCULATION NUMBERS

The number of newspapers distributed at schools and universities and through airlines and hotels, or given away at sporting events, is likely to fall under new rules governing the way circulation is counted. Australian newspaper publishers will be required for the first time to disclose how many copies are paid for and how many given away as part of commercial deals. Under changes to the auditing of newspapers and magazines announced on 17 May by the Audit Bureau of Circulations, publishers will be required to break down the number next to their total figure of net paid sales. Bureau chairman Stephen Hollings said he expected some behavioural change among publishers as a result of the new rules, which were 18 months in preparation. The new rules were brought in to dispel concerns among advertisers and media buyers that free and heavily discounted copies were inflating circulation figures.

The number of copies publishers can give away at sporting or cultural events – where a newspaper is included in the admission price – remains capped at 1 per cent of the overall circulation. Any more cannot be counted as circulation and falls into the “other sales” category. The exact number of copies given away at events will also be fully disclosed; another new rule for the bureau, which claims its members are the “most audited in the world”. From 1 July the number of audits will increase from two a year to four, with the first period from 3 July to 1 October to be reported in mid-November and results for the first six months due out in early February (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 May 2006; see also *Australian*, Media section, 18 May 2006, pp. 15, 17).

38.9 HYWOOD HEADS TOURISM VICTORIA

Greg Hywood, who has edited the *Australian Financial Review*, the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age*, has been appointed chief of Tourism Victoria. He has been an executive director

of the Victorian Department of the Premier and Cabinet for the past two years. Hywood was raised in Melbourne, but spent 25 years away working as a correspondent and editor in Canberra, Sydney, London and Washington. Fred Hilmer, as Fairfax CEO, sacked Hywood as editor-in-chief of the *Age* in April 2003 (*Age*, 13 May 2006; also see ANHG 22.4).

38.10 NEIL BREEN EDITS SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

Neil Breen, 37, a former sports editor of the *Courier-Mail* and most recently the foundation editor of *Alpha* (the News Ltd sports magazine), is now the editor of the biggest selling newspaper in Australia, the *Sunday Telegraph*. He replaces Jeni O'Dowd, who as the editor for six years and is now the editorial marketing manager for News Ltd (*Australian*, Media section, 18 May 2006, p.15; *Courier-Mail*, 15 May 2006, p.2). Breen was the Person of the Week in *Mediaweek*, 5 June 2006, pp.2, 5.

38.11 SENIOR APPOINTMENTS AT THE AUSTRALIAN

The *Australian* continues to poach the Brisbane *Courier-Mail's* top journalists. The *Courier-Mail's* national political editor, Matthew Franklin, has joined the *Australian's* Canberra bureau, and Graham Lloyd, who has been assistant editor, news editor and features editor at the *Courier-Mail*, has become the *Australian's* chief editorial writer, based in Sydney. Before he joined the *Courier-Mail*, he had been deputy business editor and a bureau chief with the *Australian*. Michael Bodey, for six years the showbiz editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, has joined the *Australian* as a media writer. Amanda O'Brien has joined the *Australian* as its West Australian political reporter. A respected journalist and senior media adviser to Liberal and Labor governments in that state, O'Brien worked most recently as media consultant for Alcoa (*Weekend Australian*, 15-16 July 2006, p.2).

38.12 THE AGE OF IMPROVEMENT

The *Age* is starting to strengthen its position in Melbourne, according to Don Churchill, the managing director of Fairfax activities in Victoria. *Mediaweek* devoted its main story on 1 May (pp.1, 5) to what Churchill says the *Age* has done in turning the paper's fortunes around. And, no, the *Age* is not thinking of going tabloid, compact, or whatever you want to call it.

38.13 WORLD CUP SPECIAL EDITION

A late-morning *Herald Sun* edition covered the World Cup match between Australia and Croatia clash. It was a 2-all draw that allowed Australia to enter the second round of the World Cup for the first time. The special edition on was on sale at CBD and suburban outlets.

38.14 NEWS CORP DOUBLES INCOME

News Corporation has reported a third-quarter net income of \$US820 million (\$A1.06 billion), up from \$US400 million in the previous corresponding period. The company believes its bottom line will be strong enough to lay the foundation for double-digit growth well into the future (*Courier-Mail*, 12 May 2006, p.39).

38.15 STAR NEWS GROUP GROWING

Mediaweek (22 May 2006, p.8) devotes a page to the growth of the Star News Group, formerly South East Newspapers, based at Pakenham in Melbourne's south-east. Managing director is Paul Thomas, a fourth-generation member of the newspaper family that has owned and run newspapers in the district since 1909. Star holds a 24.5 per cent interest in the Border Mail Printing Pty Ltd (see 38.2).

38.16 CANBERRA TIMES: GENERAL MANAGER RETIRES, EDITOR APPOINTED

Lloyd Whish-Wilson, general manager of the *Canberra Times* and Rural Press's southern newspapers (ACT, Victoria and Tasmania), retires at the end of this month. He has been in the newspaper industry 46 years and was appointed to the Canberra opposition when Rural Press bought the *Canberra Times* from Kerry Stokes in 1998. He was formerly the managing director of the *Examiner*, Launceston. Whish-Wilson and his wife will retire to a 90ha property on the Tamar River, north of Launceston, Tasmania ("Fond memories of a distinguished career", *Rural Press News*, July 2006, p.9; *Mediaweek*, 29 May 2006, p.1).

Rural Press Ltd has taken the opportunity to alter its management structure with the impending retirement of Lloyd Whish-Wilson. Ken Nichols, the business manager of the *Canberra Times*, becomes the general manager of that paper and three other mastheads. Allan Browne becomes general manager of regional operations for Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. Allen Williams becomes general manager of publishing for Western Australia, Tasmania and the United States. Bob Lockley, general manager of Rural Press printing, is now responsible also for the Launceston printing operations (*Rural Press News*, July 2006, p.3).

Mark Baker, formerly the diplomatic affairs editor of the *Age*, has been appointed the new editor of the *Canberra Times*. Baker was the deputy editor of the *Age* when Michael Gawenda was the editor (*Weekend Australian*, 20-21 May 2006, p.2; *Canberra Times*, 20 May 2006, p.2; *Rural Press News*, July 2006, p.3).

38.17 LEAVING THE WEST

Tony Barrass, who has been chief of staff, chief reporter, Canberra correspondent and magazine editor during 15 years with the *West Australian*, has joined the *Australian* as its West Australian editor. Barrass made international headlines in 1989 when he became (reportedly) the first Australian journalist to be jailed for refusing to reveal a source of information to a court of law (*Australian*, 27-28 May 2006, p.2).

38.18 NO GAIN IN CENSORING THE TRUTH OF INDIGENOUS ABUSE

An extract from what John Hartigan, chairman and chief executive of News Limited, said at the Australian National University on 30 May 2006: "Editorials and columnists express opinions. But our news pages are there to report what happens. To get to the truth of the matter. Last week one of our reporters [the *Australian's* Ashleigh Wilson] was denied access to Wadeye by the leaders of that community. They didn't want him to report what was happening. This is unacceptable, and frankly it's in no one's interest." For more, see *Australian*, 31 May 2006, p.13.

38.19 PRINT TO TV (1): MICHAEL WARE JOINS CNN

Former *Courier-Mail* investigative reporter, Michael Ware, has been signed by US news network CNN as its Baghdad correspondent. Ware gained international exposure as a war correspondent after developing contacts with the Iraqi insurgency (*Australian*, Media section, 1 June 2006, p.17).

38.20 PRINT TO TV (2): BULLETIN EDITOR TO EDIT BULLETINS

Garry Linnell, editor-in-chief of ACP Magazines' *Bulletin*, has been appointed as head of news and current affairs for the Nine Network. Linnell's appointment, his first in television, came as Eddie McGuire announced that 100 jobs would be lost from the network's news and

current affairs programs. ACP Magazines and Nine are both owned by James Packer's Publishing & Broadcasting Ltd (*Australian*, 7 June 2006, pp.1, 5, and 8 June 2006, pp. 4, 14).

John Lehmann, a senior business writer on the *Australian*, has been appointed the editor of the *Bulletin*. Lehmann began his journalism career 17 years ago on the NSW regional newspaper, the *Central Western Daily* in Orange. Since then, he has worked at the *New York Post*, the *Courier Mail* in Brisbane and the *Australian* (*Australian*, 28 June 2006, p.2).

38.21 THE GREAT ESCAPE AT BEACONSFIELD

Victor Isaacs writes: The welcome news of the rescue of goldminers at Beaconsfield, Tasmania on Tuesday, 9 May, came at a particularly bad time for newspapers for two reasons:

1. The two miners walked free shortly before 6am, just after newspapers would have been printed and were being distributed. Thus, other media – radio, television and internet, had control of the story for 24 hours. To combat this, at least three papers, Sydney's *Daily Telegraph* and *Sydney Morning Herald* and Melbourne's *Herald Sun* did publish special editions later in the morning. Because of to the two-hour time difference, the Perth *West Australian* was able to cover the story in part that day. And, of course, *mX* in Melbourne and Sydney carried the mine-rescue story in their normal afternoon editions on 9 May.

2. The next day, 10 May, when newspapers featured the story strongly, was also the day to report the Federal budget – itself usually a page one headliner.

Title	Front Page on 10 May	Comments
<i>Australian</i>	Budget	14-page Budget wraparound. First four pages on Beaconsfield
<i>Financial Review</i>	Budget	Budget wraparound
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>	Budget and Beaconsfield	First five pages on Beaconsfield; 10-page Budget liftout
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	Beaconsfield	12-page Beaconsfield wraparound. 14-page Budget coverage
<i>Age</i>	Beaconsfield and Budget	10-page Budget liftout; first six pages on the newspaper devoted to Beaconsfield
<i>Herald Sun</i>	Beaconsfield	Beaconsfield wraparound. "Second" front page: Budget
<i>Courier-Mail</i>	Beaconsfield	12-page Beaconsfield wraparound; 16-page Budget liftout
<i>Advertiser</i>	Beaconsfield and Budget	
<i>West Australian</i>	Resignation of WA Minister D'Orazio	Budget insert. Beaconsfield wraparound.
<i>Mercury</i>	Beaconsfield	
<i>Canberra Times</i>	Beaconsfield	Budget insert
<i>Newcastle Herald</i>	Beaconsfield	Budget insert
<i>Illawarra Mercury</i>	Beaconsfield	
<i>Bendigo Advertiser</i>	Beaconsfield and Budget	
<i>Border Mail</i>	Beaconsfield	
<i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i>	Beaconsfield	
<i>NT News</i>	Beaconsfield	

On Sunday, 7 May, the *Sunday Examiner*, Launceston, jumped the gun by 48 hours. Its poster read (under a "Beaconsfield rescue" strapline): THIS IS THE DAY (*60 Minutes*, Nine Network, 7 May 2006).

The Beaconsfield mine-rescue coverage was analysed and the expected cheque-book journalism that followed was discussed in the Media section of the *Australian* on 4 and 11 May, starting on Page 15; and Mark Day discussed the news “riches” of 9 May in his column on 11 May, p.20.

The Launceston *Examiner* devoted between 7 and 11 pages daily to the Beaconsfield story until the rescue took place. A couple of the paper’s staff live near Beaconsfield, a 40-minute drive from Launceston. The *Examiner* used one of the many campervans that were located in Beaconsfield as a base and the paper had an around-the-clock crew, with a core group of four to five reporters plus the same number of photographers covering the event (*Mediaweek*, 15 May 2006, p.2).

Dean Southwell, editor of the *Examiner*, wrote about his paper’s coverage of the Beaconsfield story in “Community trust gets the big story in Beaconsfield”, *PANPA Bulletin*, June 2006, pp.17-18, and Jack Beverley wrote about the challenges that faced all newspapers covering the story – “Golden opportunities in miracle rescue:”, *PANPA Bulletin*, June 2006, pp.18-19.

It would be remiss of this newsletter if it did not record the death of an outstanding TV reporter Richard Carleton while covering the Beaconsfield rescue. The *60 Minutes* reporter, aged 62, died on 7 May within minutes of asking a typically hard-nosed question of the mine management. For tributes, see the *Australian*, 9 May 2006, p.11, and the Media section, 11 May, p.18 (David Salter) and p.20 (Errol Simper). An obituary appeared in the *Courier-Mail*, 9 May, p.73.

38.22 FAIRFAX GROWTH SLOWS

John Lehmann reports (*Australian*, 6 June 2006, p.23): The heavy exposure of John Fairfax Holdings to the slow-growth states of NSW and Victoria and the weakening New Zealand dollar could slice as much as 7 per cent off its second-half earnings. The company has forecast full-year earnings before interest and tax of between \$420 million and \$430 million, excluding significant items.

38.23 STANHOPE-LESS

On 8 June the Sydney *Daily Telegraph*, unusually, had a split print run. The main print featured a front-page story headed “Camera Ban Farce” about parents being banned from photographing their children because of paedophilia fears. However, in copies of the *Daily Telegraph* on sale in the ACT the entire front page was devoted to a story attacking the ACT Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope. The large headline was “Stanhope-Less”. This story was also allocated most of page four and was the subject of the main editorial. Unfortunately for the *Daily Telegraph*, Page 2 carried a story carried over from a non-existent start on Page 1.

38.24 JOURNALIST APPOINTED TO CHAIR ARTS BODY

Imré Salusinszky, an academic turned journalist, has been appointed chairman of the Literature Board of the Australia Council for three years. He will also sit on the board of the Australia Council. Salusinszky, the Australian’s NSW political reporter, was previously an associate professor of English at the University of Newcastle and once lectured at Yale University, where he held a Fulbright Scholarship (*Weekend Australian*, 17-18 June 2006, p.2).

38.25 MARK LATHAM ESCAPES CONVICTION

Former Federal Labor Leader Mark Latham was placed on a two-year good behaviour bond when he pleaded guilty in Campbelltown Local Court on 6 June to smashing a digital camera

belonging to *Daily Telegraph* photographer Ross Schultz. Latham had confronted Schultz in the car park outside Hungry Jack's at Campbelltown on 19 January 2006. Latham's lawyers tendered a compensation cheque for \$6763.70 (*Courier-Mail*, 7 June 2006, p.17; see also ANHG 36.11 and 37.19).

38.26 GOSSIP MAGAZINE PULPED

Weekly celebrity gossip magazine *Star Enquirer* was launched in November 2005 and ceased publication on 17 May after failing consistently to meet its sales goal of 65,000 copies per issue. FPC Magazines, privately owned by the Hannan family, was outgunned by the multi-million-dollar marketing budgets of rivals such as Time Inc's *Who Weekly* and Pacific's new weekly celebrity title, *Famous* (*Weekend Australian*, 20-21 May 20-06, p.33; *Australian Financial Review*, 29 May 2006, p.49).

38.27 SEDITION IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Australia: Some parts of the Howard Government's new sedition laws are illogical and anachronistic and they should be renamed and rewritten, according to an inquiry by the Australian Law Reform Commission. The Commission wants the Government to remove the concept of sedition from the federal statute book because of the threat to free speech. The sedition laws were introduced late last year as part of Canberra's package of counter-terrorism laws (*Australian*, 30 May 2006, p.8).

New Zealand: In Auckland, Tim Selwyn, a freelance writer, was found guilty on 8 June of sedition. He says the verdict puts the state of freedom of speech in New Zealand on a par with repressive states such as Zimbabwe, Saudi Arabi and Malaysia. An Auckland District Court jury took three hours to find Selwyn guilty of one charge of publishing a statement with seditious intent. He may face up to two years in prison. He was released on bail to return for sentencing on 18 July. His crime: He took part in a protest which put an axe through the window of the electoral office of Prime Minister Helen Clark; he wrote a press release encouraging others to follow his example; for this the jury found him guilty of sedition, which is defined as "speech, writing or behaviour intended to encourage rebellion or resistance against the government" (*New Zealand Herald*, 9 June 2006, online).

38.28 THE MERCURY BECOMES MERCURY

From Hobart, **Damian Bester** writes: Hobart's daily newspaper underwent a redesign on 12 June 2006, and modified its name by dropping the definite article from its masthead to become simply *Mercury*. The slogan "The Voice of Tasmania" appears above the title, while an internet address, date of issue and the cover price appear below. Weather highlights appear in a strap at the foot of Page 1. The newspaper also switched its body type to Nimrod from New Century Schoolbook, which had been used since 1985 and has been retained for headlines. An enlarged index panel appears on Page 2, while a new section called "Community" provides a home for services and diary dates. The paper has also introduced a weekly picture series, called "Echoes of our Past", designed "to satisfy the great Tasmanian thirst for things historical". The first issue of *The Hobart Mercury* appeared on 5 July 1854. In 1857 the banner changed to *The Hobart Town Mercury*, while in 1858 it became *The Hobart Town Daily Mercury*. From 1860 the masthead was *The Mercury* (in a variety of fonts and formats) until the recent reduction to *Mercury*.

38.29 RACIAL EQUALITY AWARD

The *Sydney Morning Herald* and its sister paper the *Age* have won the British Commission for Racial Equality's first international award for reporting on issues of race. A series of articles

on Muslims in Europe by London correspondent James Button beat *Time* magazine and the BBC to win the award (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 June 2006, online).

38.30 AUSTRALIAN AND SMH SLUG IT OUT

On Thursday 29 June the three morning general newspapers available in Sydney led with different stories. The *Sydney Morning Herald* led with a reopening of the controversy over the architecture of the Opera House, the *Daily Telegraph* with the slowness of Cityrail trains, and the *Australian* with industrial relations and Channel 9 management. Next day, the *SMH* ran an ad asserting that only the *SMH* had locally relevant stories. Then on 1-2 July the *Weekend Australian* (NSW edition) hit back strongly with an ad headed "The *SMH* Lies". The item not only argued against the *SMH*'s claim, but said the *SMH* had dishonestly doctored a reproduction of the *Australian*'s front page. It concluded, "Once the grand dame of Australian newspapers, the *SMH* has become a provincial rag that is more and more irrelevant to the big issues that shape the nation. Now it has become blatantly dishonest."

38.31 MURDOCH TO FIRM FAMILY TIES

Rupert Murdoch has given his strongest indication yet that he can soon broker a peace deal with rival United States media mogul John Malone that would secure the Murdoch family's control of News Corporation. Murdoch told John Durie (*Australian Financial Review*, 29 June 2006, pp.1, 18) that the deal to remove Liberty Media from his company's share register might involve the sale to Liberty of about half a dozen of News Corp's 35 US television stations. He hopes the issue is resolved in a few months.

38.32 CEO APPOINTED TO MAKE SURE THE NEWSPAPER WORKS

On 19 July the Australian newspaper industry revealed the name of its new marketing body, The Newspaper Works, and of its chief executive, Tony Hale, who has had more than 30 years in advertising – most recently with Clemenger BBDO. The body has been established by News Ltd, John Fairfax Holdings Ltd, APN News & Media Ltd, Rural Press Ltd and WAN Holdings Ltd. (*Australian*, Media section, 20 July 2006, p.17; *Australian Financial Review*, 10 July 2006, p.16).

38.33 SYDNEY'S *mX* EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Brett de Vine, editor of the Sydney *mX*, says the daily afternoon commuter newspaper, has exceeded expectations for distribution and advertising in its first year. The paper began publication on 4 July 2005, building on the success of the Melbourne *mX* brand, initiated on 5 February 2001. De Vine says the distribution of Sydney's *mX* takes place between 3pm and 7pm each day. The average distribution has grown to 90,000, compared with an initial distribution of 50,000 to 60,000 in July last year. The day the Beaconsfield miners were freed (9 May), 107,000 copies of the paper were distributed (*Mediaweek*, 17 July 2006, p.1).

38.34 ON THE TRACK FOR NEWS

RailCorp NSW has called tenders "to enter into contract(s) with one or more Proponents for distribution of a free Commuter Publication on selected [Sydney] CBD RailCorp Stations ... not restricted to newspaper format". Tenders close on 9 August (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 July 2006, p.24).

38.35 LILYDALE NEWSPAPER AT 120

The *Lilydale Leader*, formerly the *Lilydale Express*, published a 16-page wraparound at the beginning of July to celebrate its 120th birthday. Apart from the front page, the publishers

allowed 20 per cent editorial content (three pages), reports the *Melbourne Observer*, 12 July 2006, p.26.

38.36 WA JOURNALIST STILL WORKING AT 80

From Perth, **David Marsh** writes: On 25 June 2006 Western Australia's longest-serving journalist, Frank Platell, turned 80. He is still a journalist at the *West Australian*, after joining as a cadet reporter in 1941. Platell retired from full-time reporting in 1991, but has continued at the paper as a housing writer two days a week. His daughter, Amanda Platell, is a columnist with the *Daily Mail* in London.

38.37 FAIRFAX CHAIRMAN AND THE MEDIA REFORMS

Ron Walker, chairman of John Fairfax Holdings, spent more than \$1.4 million on Fairfax shares in the days before Federal Cabinet revealed its media reform package. Federal Cabinet met on Monday, 10 July. Walker bought his extra shares on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The package was revealed on the Thursday. Walker is a former treasurer of the federal Liberal Party. Walker said he had been wanting to buy more shares for months and this had been the first window of opportunity (*Australian*, 18 July 2006, p.19).

38.38 ONLINE NEWS: QUANTITY AND QUALITY

Barry Blair writes: If the hard copy of your favourite newspaper is not readily available, try the online editions. Online newspapers throughout Australia include all Rural Press Ltd titles at <<http://www.yourguide.com.au/yourguide.asp>>, all metropolitans, McPherson Media Group <<http://news.mcmedia.com.au/>> located in the southern Riverina NSW and Goulburn-Murray, Victoria; APN News & Media with 17 Australian titles; major provincials including *Illawarra Mercury*; the *Standard*, Warrnambool; the *Herald*, Newcastle; *Townsville Bulletin*; *Cairns Post*; *Border Mail*, Albury/Wodonga; *Alice Springs News*; *Maryborough Herald*, Queensland.

Free newspapers include *City News*, Canberra; *Barrier Miner*, Broken Hill (the full paper) and the *Armidale Independent*. Suburban newspapers online include News Ltd titles such as *Manly Daily* and *Parramatta Advertiser*.

For what is purported to be a complete list of Australian titles online, visit the National Library of Australia website <http://www.nla.gov.au/npapers/index.html#b> Unfortunately this site has been found to have outdated information. Many titles included in the NLA list are promotional only.

Latest developments in online news occurred recently in Perth where News Ltd's *Sunday Times* initiated a 24/7 online web page called *PerthNow* (see 38.3 above) at <http://www.news.com.au/perthnow/> this initiative just beat the *West Australian*, who have also now created a new web page at <http://www.thewest.com.au/>

One of Rural Press Ltd's newest acquisitions, the *Moree Champion* came online on 30 June. In order to access news from some titles, online readers must provide free subscription information to titles such as those operated by McPherson Media and Rural Press Ltd's titles including *The Land*. *Australian Financial Review* online readers need to pay to access online news. Metropolitan newspapers (News Ltd and Fairfax titles) provide a breaking news service, some of which comes from AAP.

What can be frustrating is that some provincial titles can be rather recalcitrant in posting current news. Some such titles seem to get around to posting news when the mood suits. On the other hand, most titles are very reliable such as the *Northern Daily Leader*, Tamworth

where the following day's news is posted about 9.30pm the evening before publication date. Other provincials, such as APN titles post their online news after 9am on the day of publication. Some online provincial titles have come and gone over the years including newspapers at Mt Gambier and Narrabri. ABC News Online provides eight metropolitan and 36 regional online sites at <http://abc.net.au/news/australia/default.htm>

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: PROVINCIAL

38.39 EDITORS APPOINTED

38.39.1 Ballarat: Angela Carey, formerly deputy editor of Ballarat's *Courier*, has been appointed editor. She replaces Peter Dwyer whose departure has been unexplained (*Rural Press News*, July 2006, p.3).

38.39.2 Broome: Simon Pemm, of the *West Australian*, has been appointed the editor of the weekly *Broome Advertiser*. Manager Jenny Membery says Pemm is the first editor the *Advertiser* has had. Previously it had a senior journalist. The *Advertiser* sells about 6,700 issues a week (*Mediaweek*, 29 May 2006, p.5).

38.39.3 Hawkesbury: The Hawkesbury *Gazette and Courier* had a new editor from 29 May – highly experienced journalist and sub-editor Rebecca Lang. Previously, Lang was a sub-editor for Australia's biggest selling weekly newspaper, the *Sunday Telegraph*. She has also worked as a chief of staff and deputy editor of the *North Shore Times* and served three and a half years in the Canberra press gallery as a political reporter with the Melbourne *Herald Sun*. Geake has returned to sub-editing at the *Gazette and Courier* (*Gazette & Courier*, 26 May 2006, online).

38.40 EDITORS WANTED

- Toowoomba's daily *Chronicle* and Emerald's bi-weekly *Central Queensland News*, both owned by APN News & Media, advertised for editors on 22 June (*Australian*, Media section, p.17). The Emerald editor also edits the weekly *Blackwater Herald*.
- Mackay's *Daily Mercury*, also an APN paper, is also seeking an editor (*Australian*, Media section 20 July 2006, p.19).

38.41 SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

- The *Daily Mercury*, which began life as the *Mackay Mercury*, has celebrated its 140th birthday on 3 April by publishing a 56-page historical supplement. The *Mercury* is one of the 10 Queensland regional dailies in the APN News & Media stable.
- The *Circular Head Chronicle*, Smithton, Tasmania, celebrated its centenary on 18 July and published a centenary edition. The paper started at nearby Stanley and shifted to Smithton in 1952 (*Australian*, Media section, 20 July 2006, p.20).

38.42 WOMEN AT LONGREACH AND HERVEY BAY

Tuppy McIntosh, the first female editor, of the *Longreach Leader*, in Queensland's arid central-west, says the whole staff is now female. She has been the editor since last October, replacing John Hughes, who bought the *Tully Times*. McIntosh says the "handbag revolution" was not meant to happen. It just happened. "Suddenly I realised we were an all-women office and, yes, it absolutely changed the nature of the paper and the nature of how we cover women's issues. We're all now very conscious of not overdoing it." McIntosh was raised on a station at Muttaborra and graduated from university with a science degree, with a special

interest in ecology, but she started work in Melbourne on a youth paper, *Voice Works* (*Mediaweek*, 8 May 2006, p.7).

At the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*, editor Nancy Bates noted that earlier this year all those at the morning news conference in the Hervey Bay headquarters were female. All the males on staff were on different shifts or days off. Another four males have since joined the staff, including new deputy editor Glenn Cordingley who replaced Ernie Paussa (*APN Password*, May 2006, p.22).

38.43 APN BUYS BRISBANE SUBURBAN TITLE

APN News & Media Ltd has completed the purchase of suburban Brisbane newspaper the *Reporter*, part of a financially troubled media group controlled by Brisbane businessman Mike Norris. A sale contract was signed on 3 May. Sources say APN paid around \$2.2 million for the newspaper, which was established by Peter Falvey in 1989 and claims a circulation of around 85,000 in the area stretching from Woolloongabba to Springwood. For APN the acquisition marks the trans-Tasman media group's entry into the Brisbane newspaper market dominated by News Limited's *Courier Mail* and its Quest Community Newspapers titles (*Queensland Business Review*, 10 May 2006).

38.44 I DON'T MIND AT ALL IF YOU CALL ME A MALLEE GIRL

From Melbourne, **Larry Noye** writes: Cara Anderson, a 24-year-old who had worked in public affairs for Western Health in Melbourne, has become the editor of the *Hopetoun Courier and Mallee Pioneer*, which is in its 114th year. Hopetoun, which might seem like a place of no hope at all, lies in sparsely settled terrain between Mildura and Warracknabeal in north-west Victoria. The *Courier* proudly announces that it circulates extensively throughout the Southern Mallee and Northern Wimmera. It is said to have a circulation of 700 and is published by the Hopetoun Courier Cooperative Society Ltd. But it tends to breathe life into that big region, stories and photos of winning school teams, and bits and pieces that make up local life. Cara Anderson's venture into the bush may well be a toehold into the sort of journalism she may have heard only whispers of in her university studies. She graduated with a BA majoring in journalism. Anderson succeeds Andrea Hogan as editor. Hogan, a "local" from Beulah, has moved to Wangaratta after five years in Hopetoun. Incidentally, the rural soil up Hopetoun way has grown impressive folk in the past. Robert Gordon Menzies emerged from humble Jeparit, not far away. [Rod Kirkpatrick writes: The *Hopetoun Courier* issued a "special centenary edition" on 23 September 1992; it's quite a significant historical contribution.]

38.45 WHAT MAKES A GREAT NEWSPAPER?

The fourth-estate concept of the press seemed remote when *Geelong Advertiser* editor Peter Judd responded to the following request: Name five things that make a great newspaper (*PANPA Bulletin*, June 2006, p.49). Judd's response was:

"The following five key questions are pinned on the *Geelong Advertiser* newsroom noticeboard. A great newspaper is defined by how it presents the news. This is our response to that challenge.

1. Does the story evoke an emotional response from a reader? If not, how can I better present it in a way that connects with the reader?
2. Does the package promote the key market difference as a local newspaper? If not, how can I better present the news from a local standpoint?
3. Does the story/picture communicate with instant clarity? If not, how can I simplify the message?

4. Does the story have a human face? How can I write the news so that it has compelling human interest?
5. Would the story/picture/treatment excite readers to share it with others? If not, what is missing?"

38.46 CORAL DAVIES SAYS GOODBYE TO WAGIN ARGUS

Coral Davies has resigned from the small WA country weekly, the *Wagin Argus*, after 34 years. She began as a part-timer in 1972 when her husband, Don, became the managing editor. She worked full-time for the paper for 20 years, most recently as office manager. On a small paper like the *Argus*, the office manager does everything from administrative tasks and selling advertisements to taking photographs, writing stories and even "cleaning the toilet". The new office manager and sales coordinator is Lerina Ballard, who graduated from Edith Cowan University last year with majors in journalism and photomedia. Ballard completed her compulsory university work experience at the *Argus* from March until May 2005, working two days a week in editorial. She is married to a local farmer Roger Ballard.

38.47 BARRIER MINER EXPANDS DISTRIBUTION AREA

The *Barrier Miner* has expanded its distribution area to reach residents in Yunta, pastoralists west of Cobar, and now Wentworth. About 11,500 copies are distributed each week. If you'd like to see past editions the *Miner*, log in to www.barrierminer.com.au

38.48 APN ISSUES *BEST* TO HIGHLIGHT R1

APN News and Media Ltd has published the first issue of *Best*, a 24-page tabloid house newspaper designed to highlight the R1 (Readers First) program being implemented by the company's Australian and New Zealand regional newspapers. *Best* also celebrates "the top ideas, best practices and great people" from those newspapers (*Best*, April 2006).

38.49 BORDER WATCH SUES MP

The acrimonious relationship between Mount Gambier MP Rory McEwen and his local newspaper continues: The *Border Watch* is now suing McEwen for unpaid fees. The paper has lodged a claim for \$5,518.14 for advertising in the lead-up to the 18 March state election which he MP has refused to pay. In a statement filed with Mount Gambier's small claims court, McEwen said that while arranging his election advertising he was given an undertaking by the paper's editor that campaign coverage would be fair and balanced. But McEwen claims it was not and the paper therefore breached the advertising contract. A directions hearing has been scheduled for August 16 (*Advertiser*, Adelaide, 11 July 2006, online).

38.50 LIFE OF RILEY

Bob Riley, aged 57, has completed postgraduate journalism studies at Queensland University of Technology and has begun his third career. He joined the Warwick *Daily News* as a cadet journalist. He is a former surveyor and a former administrator in the Australian Federal Police (*Daily News*, 6 July 2006, online).

38.51 QUEANBEYAN AGE BECOMES A WEEKLY

The *Queanbeyan Age*, published closer to Canberra's CBD than most Canberrans live, has become a weekly after appearing twice weekly since 7 January 2003. Before that it was a tri-weekly. The paper, launched in 1860 as the *Golden Age*, made the change to weekly issue at

the beginning of July, with the first weekly issue appeared on 7 July. The date appeared only on the front page; no other pages bore the date of issue.

Victor Isaacs, of Canberra, writes: The apparent decline of the *Queanbeyan Age* is largely of Rural Press's own making, in that its paid-for *Age* has to compete with its free *Chronicle*. Admittedly the Queanbeyan edition of the *Chronicle* does not have much Queanbeyan content (although it does have more local content than the various Canberra editions of the *Chronicle*), but it is free and it is thrown onto every front lawn. So, one has to be a dedicated Queanbeyanite to buy the paid local paper in addition. I have heard it said, that most of the remaining support for the *Queanbeyan Age* comes from people who buy it for its local sports coverage.

38.52 SMITH FAMILY LOSES KILMORE PAPER

The 141-year-old *Free Press* at Kilmore, Victoria, has fallen victim to competition introduced two years ago. Wally Mott and Bob Yeates, both members of long-established newspaper dynasties, are the principals of Kilmore Newspapers Pty Ltd, which took over the *Free Press* on 7 July. They launched the *North Central Review* on 18 May 2004 in partnership with Bruce Smith, who a member of the family that had owned the *Free Press* since 1968. The final issue of the *Free Press* under Smith family ownership appeared on 5 July 2006. Jim Smith, now 73, and son Peter fought the rival in a bitter duel, and by the time they lost the battle the *Review* had sacked Bruce Smith (Jim's son and Peter's brother). The two papers continue, the *Free Press* as a paid local weekly with a circulation of about 3,800, and the *Review*, a free regional weekly with a distribution of 12,000. Both papers are printed at the Bairnsdale plant most closely linked to the Yeates family, owners of the *Bairnsdale Advertiser* for more than 100 years (sources: telephone interview with Bill West, editor of the *Free Press*, 20 July 2006; State Library of Victoria catalogue).

38.53 COOBER PEDY PAPER IN ADMINISTRATION

The fortnightly *Coober Pedy Times* was facing the possibility of closure as this newsletter went to press, judging from a report in the (internet-only) *Coober Pedy News*. At a public meeting, the acting chairman of the Coober Pedy Regional Times Association Incorporated, Trevor McLeod, announced that the association was insolvent, and that an administrator had been appointed. The *Times* has lurched from crisis to crisis for many years, being bailed out several times by grants from local and federal governments. The paper is for sale (*Mediaweek*, 19 July 2006, online edition; *Australian*, Media section, 20 July 2006, p.20).

NEWSPAPER HISTORY

38.54 BOOKS AND THE ANHG: TWO MORE IN PIPELINE

The Australian Newspaper History Group is about to re-enter the book-publishing arena. One publishing project in train is the Second Edition of *Australian Newspaper History: A Bibliography*. The First Edition was issued in 2004 and a Supplement of additional items was published in January 2005. In 2005 the ANHG also published a Bibliography compiled by Professor Henry Mayer in 1964 as part of the preparation for his seminal work *The Press in Australia*. A major feature of the Second Edition of *Australian Newspaper History: A Bibliography* will be the integration of the Mayer items into the overall Bibliography, making a much more comprehensive and useful document. The inclusion of the Mayer items and other recent additions will mean the Second Edition will be about twice as big as the First Edition. The Second Edition is being compiled by Victor Isaacs, Rod Kirkpatrick and John Russell.

Another publication, expected to be available late this year, is a study of the changing design of Australian daily and Sunday newspapers over the years. This book, *Looking Good? The Changing Appearance of Australian Newspapers*, is being written by Victor Isaacs. It will cover topics such as the strange former practice of newspapers devoting their front pages to advertisements rather than news, and when and why this changed, the changing page size of Australian newspapers, the introduction of illustrations to papers, and newspapers' mastheads.

38.55 GET THE LATEST NEWS – AT THE POST OFFICE

If you lived in the bush in the 1800s, you would have looked forward to a trip to the post office to collect your mail. It was the place to find out the latest news and gossip, and a place to meet friends from the district. On 13-14 May, Don and Forth in north west Tasmania both celebrated 150 years of postal services in their villages. Postal historian Jan Welling says the post offices were an important service for people in farming areas. "When the electric telegraph came through in 1872 it was possible for the postmaster to get messages from outside, and that's the way news came through. Things like wars and fires and floods and all sorts of earth-shattering events were recorded by word of mouth. The postmaster got the message on the electric telegraph and passed it around the people in the town" (*ABC Country Hour*, Tasmania, 12 May 2006).

38.56 AUSTRALIAN PRESS COUNCIL: A PEN PICTURE

The Australian Press Council was formed on 1 July 1976 by an agreement between the publishers and the Australian Journalists' Association. The Council has always had a mixture of industry representatives, journalists (originally elected by the AJA) and members of the public. When the AJA left the Council in 1986, it reconstituted, with journalists represented by independent and freelance journalists and retired editors. The MEAA (the union that includes the old AJA) re-affiliated in 2005 and again nominates members to the Council.

As the Council ended its 30th year, it had formally dealt with nearly 10,000 complaints, of which about 3,700 had been mediated or otherwise settled to the satisfaction of the complainant. It had adjudicated nearly 2,000 of the complaints, issuing 1,316 adjudications, of which more than 40 per cent had upheld the complaint in whole or part. Additionally, it had sent out 271 press releases or reporting guidelines, published 29 annual reports and 74 issues of the *Australian Press Council News*. Its website had nearly 1,000 separate files, searchable by keyword. It did all this from one office with three full-time employees and one permanent part-timer (*Australian Press Council News*, Vol. 18, No. 2, May 2006, p.5).

38.57 ADB DATABASE LAUNCHED

The *Australian Dictionary of Biography* has launched an online database that allows free public access to the biographies of people who have played an important role in Australia's history. There are 10,000 biographical articles on the site and a variety of search options, including occupation. Search "journalist", for instance, and you come up with 545 biographies. The site is: <<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au>>

38.58 THE OLD CANBERRA PRESS GALLERY GOES ON DISPLAY

The Press Gallery in Old Parliament House, Canberra, is the scene and subject of a new exhibition, "Leaks, Scoops and Scandals: The Press Gallery, 1927-1988". Only two journalists have been immortalised as mannequins in the exhibition: Gay Davidson, the first female political correspondent for a metropolitan newspaper in Australia; and Alan Reid, who was the political correspondent for the *Daily Telegraph* (see *Australian*, Media section, 22 June 2006, pp.13-14). The Prime Minister, John Howard, launched the exhibition on 20 June (*Australian*, 22 June 2006, p.4).

Victor Isaacs writes: A major milestone in commemorating and recording the history of the media in Australia occurred on 20 June 2006 when the restored former Press Gallery was opened to the public as one of the displays at old Parliament House in Canberra. The opening was performed by the Prime Minister. A significant effort has been made to provide displays and reconstructions explaining the function and history of the Press Gallery from 1927 (when Federal Parliament moved from Melbourne) to 1988 (when it moved to its permanent building). Recordings by journalists recall conditions and events. The displays merely scratch the surface of the history of the media and its relationship with Parliament, yet will significantly contribute to public awareness.

Most of the rooms now house displays. Others have been restored to resemble their former appearance. There is a recreation of what a newspaper's bureau would have looked like in the 1930s (very crowded). Other recreations are of a radio bureau of the 1970s and a TV office of the 1980s. The Press Boxes, recipient of innumerable media releases over the decades, and a centre of former activity, are preserved. It is also possible to sit in the journalists' places in the gallery above the House of Representatives chamber.

38.59 THE 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL AUSTRALIANS

The *Bulletin* (4 July 2006, pp.48-105) has presented its list of the "100 Most Influential Australians". The panellists making the selection were ABC radio presenter Julie McCrossin, journalist Phillip Knightley, and historian Michael Cathcart. The most influential Australian of all time was judged to be media magnate Rupert Murdoch. The late Kerry Packer was also in the top 10. Among the newspaper-related names in the 100 were; Jack Lang, Alfred Deakin, J.F. Archibald, A.B. Paterson, Henry Parkes, Henry Lawson, and Donald Horne.

38.60 NEWSPAPER NOSTALGIA

The *Melbourne Observer* ran two pages of "newspaper nostalgia" on 12 July (pp.16-17), focusing on the *Argus*, the paper that served Melbourne for five months short of 111 years (1846-1957) and on the *Star News-Pictorial*, the evening newspaper it published from 30 October 1933 to 9 April 1936.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

38.61 BOOKS

Hauer, Don, *Printers of the Streets and Lanes of Melbourne*, Nondescript Press, 55 Agnes St, Jolimont, 3002, \$37 plus \$7 postage. A detailed history of 450 printing businesses in Melbourne between 1837 and the mid-1970s. Although Melbourne-centric, covers the history of printing since 1452 and printing in Australia since 1788. Contains over 200 illustrations.

Recent Publication of Interest

Zwar, Desmond, *The Queen, Rupert & Me: A Reporter's Extraordinary Life*. Hartwell, Vic: Temple House, 2004. 358pp. A memoir of Zwar's 50 years in journalism. Zwar is the author of 17 books, including *In Search of Keith Murdoch*.

38.62 ARTICLES (alphabetical by author's surname)

Austin, John, "Scrutiny missing from within", *Courier-Mail*, 29 June 2006, p.32. The Journalist-in-Residence at the University of Queensland's School of Journalism and Communication says we're not training indigenous journalists who could expose scandals in remote Australia.

Baker-Dowdell, Johanna, “Newspapers vs the others: When readers and advertisers are spoilt for choice”, *PANPA Bulletin*, June 2006, pp.14, 16. Many community newspapers are now fighting with metropolitan dailies and glossy magazines for readers and advertisers, with some publications willing to steal stories and advertisers to get ahead in the market.

Conley, David, “Forgive us our press passes: Olga Masters’ journalism and fiction”, *Australian Studies in Journalism*, No. 16, 2006, pp.21-40. The author argues that Olga Masters’ journalism provided experiential framing for her fiction.

Ferguson, Adele, “Stop the Presses! David Kirk’s online vision for Fairfax”, *BRW*, 20 April 2006. A good analysis of the choices facing the Fairfax and other media companies.

Fordham, Helen, “A war correspondent’s legacy to journalism”, *Australian Studies in Journalism*, No. 16, 2006, pp.41-63. An examination of the little-known career of Colin Malcolm McDonald, a West Australian-born London *Times* correspondent who reported the Sino Japanese war between 1937 and 1943.

Griffen-Foley, Bridget, “Australian press, radio and television historiography: An update”, *Media International Australia*, No. 119, May 2006, pp.21-37. This bibliography updates previous work by Henry Mayer and John Henningham. It is organised according to their categories and is annotated to provide an overview of developments in Australian research in media history. The author begins by stating: This is a bibliography of books, theses and special journal issues completed or commenced since the publication of Henry Mayer, “Press, Radio and Television” in *Australians: A Guide to Sources* (Fairfax: Syme & Weldon Associates, Sydney, 1987, pp.446-451) and John Henningham, “Two Hundred Years of Australian Journalism: A History Waiting to be Written”, in *Australian Cultural History*, no. 7, 1988, pp.49-64.

Griffen-Foley, Bridget, “The small picture”, *Australian Book Review*, No. 281, May 2006, p.8. A discussion of the changing face of newspaper libraries, especially that of John Fairfax in Sydney.

Herman, Jack, “The police and the media”, *Australian Press Council News*, May 2006, pp.1-4. Australian Federal Police Commissioner Mick Keelty gave the annual address to the Press Council in March. Herman reports the speech, and Council chair Ken McKinnon responds to it (p.4).

Holt, Stephen, “The ultimate insider: Reflections on the career of influential political journalist Alan Reid”, *National Library of Australia News*, July 2006, pp.11-13.

Huey, John, “The march of Time”, *Time*, 12 June 2006, p.10. A changing of the guard at *Time* magazine: Jim Kelly leaves the chair of managing editor and Richard Stengel replaces him. Huey reflects on the two. Kelly becomes managing editor of Time Inc.

Hussem, Koos, “Today’s news is tomorrow’s history”, *PANPA Bulletin*, May 2006, p.48. A look at digitising and making money from newspaper archives.

Isaacson, Peter, “Commonwealth Games”, *PANPA Bulletin*, May 2006, p.42. Australian newspapers praised for their coverage of the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

James, Clive, ‘The continuing insult to the language’, *The Monthly*, June 2006, pp.48-54. An expatriate Australian outs the use of English in the English media under the microscope. This article includes a magnificent black and white picture of the subs’ room at the *Evening News*, London, from the Australian Picture Library.

Kirkpatrick, Rod, "New life for old machinery and old printers at Queanbeyan", *PANPA Bulletin*, May 2006, pp.55-56. A snapshot of the Queanbeyan Printing Museum and those who run it, and a biographical sketch of Jim Woods, former owner of the *Queanbeyan Age* and various country newspapers.

Kirkpatrick, Rod, "A whirlwind of change for Northern Territory News", *PANPA Bulletin*, June 2006, pp.44-45. The end of afternoon publication for paid-circulation dailies in Australia, with the unusual case of the *Northern Territory News* highlighted: it has twice changed from afternoon to morning publication.

Knightley, Phillip, "The hacks' progress", *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 39, June/July 2006, pp.18-20. Bean counters, bosses and government departments seem bent on strangling good reporting. But serious journalism will survive.

Lord, Gillian, "Truly the pen is mightier," *Canberra Times*, Panorama section, 10 June 2006. A brief history of newspaper cartooning in Australia and the influence of cartoonists.

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